

AUG 16 2007

Serial No. 10/814,693

Docket No. 125686-5

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Office as evidenced by the Office Action mailed on May 16, 2007. In that Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, rejected claims 1-33, and objected to claim 3. In this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 9, and 32; and have canceled claims 7, 8, and 33-41. Claims 1-6, and 9-32 remain pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

1. Restriction/Election

Applicants hereby confirm election of claims 1-33 for prosecution on the merits, and have canceled claims 34-41, drawn to the non-elected claims, with the intention of preserving the option of pursuing prosecution of the canceled claims in a future divisional application.

2. Claim Objections

Applicants have amended claim 3 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion, and believe that this amendment fully addresses the objection to the claim. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

3. Claim Rejections—35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-19, and 24-31 were rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,287,644, hereinafter "Jackson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

This reference fails to teach, suggest, or disclose each and every limitation recited in independent claims 1 and 32, as amended herein (and the dependent claims of claim 1). Specifically, Jackson fails to teach, suggest, or disclose "coating said substrate with a metal layer, the metal layer comprising at least one metal selected from the group consisting of platinum and palladium," as recited in amended claim 1 and claim 32. Jackson discloses an aluminum-nickel region deposited in a "first deposited region" but does not suggest that this first deposited region can or should contain platinum or palladium. In Jackson, the first

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deposited region "is concentrated in high vapor pressure materials, such as...aluminum;" platinum and palladium, which melt at far higher temperatures than aluminum, cannot fairly be thought of as high vapor pressure materials in this context. Thus Jackson teaches away from the deposition of platinum or palladium prior to the deposition of the protective layer.

Jackson fails to teach all limitations recited by claim 1, its dependent claims, and independent claim 32. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims as amended are patentably distinct from Jackson.

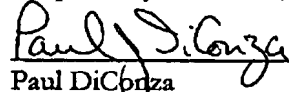
4. Claim Rejections—35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected a number of claims dependent from claim 1 under Section 103, using Jackson as the primary reference, combined with various other references. However, as pointed out above, Applicants believe that claim 1 is now allowable over Jackson, and thus the dependent claims rejected under Section 103 should be allowable due to their dependency from an allowable independent claim. Applicants respectfully request removal of these rejections.

3. Conclusion

In light of the remarks and amendments presented herein, Applicants believe that this serves as a complete response to the subject Office Action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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